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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 8607  
INFO RHEFHLC/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE  
RHMFISS/Joint STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 3448  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 056224

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING SENSITIVE CAPTION)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: MARR NATO PGOV PREL

SUBJECT: USNATO IS AUTHORIZED TO SIGN MOU ON THE  
FACILITATION OF VITAL CIVIL EMERGENCY CROSS BORDER  
TRANSPORT

¶1. (U) USNATO is hereby authorized to sign the  
Memorandum of Understanding on the Facilitation of Vital  
Civil Emergency Personnel Cross Border Transport (MOU) for  
Allies and Partners with the statement of understanding  
found below.

¶2. (U) Statement of Understanding

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We have designated the International Affairs Division of  
the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency as the  
national point of contact for purposes of paragraph 3 (1)  
of the MOU. Furthermore, the United States understands  
the terms "to the extent possible" and "whenever possible"  
as used in paragraphs 4 (4) and 5 (1) of the MOU to mean  
to the extent practicable as authorized by law. Upon  
signing the MOU, the United States intends to submit a  
declaration including the statements noted above and for the  
purpose of recording them concurrently with the United  
States, signature.

¶3. (U) This non-binding agreement seeks to foster  
international cooperation in providing, receiving, or  
supporting international disaster relief. The U.S. will  
join 24 Allied and Partner nations that have already  
signed the MOU.

¶4. (SBU) During the interagency review, DOD cleared the  
MOU without any concerns or recommendations. However, DHS  
and State attorneys expressed concerns with several  
phrases contained within the MOU. After months of  
deliberation, the attorneys for DHS and STATE approved the  
MOU on the condition that we include the above quoted  
Statement of  
Understanding.

¶5. (U) In addition to the diplomatic value of U.S.  
support for this multi-national agreement, the MOU has  
practical benefit for domestic and international disaster  
response. Canada indicated that a U.S. signature may  
prompt action in Ottawa. Additionally, the MOU provides a  
basis for disaster coordination with Canada and Mexico.  
CLINTON